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Dear Friend,

I am proud to be a member of the House Education and Labor Committee where I have the privilege of working on issues important to students and their families.

Yesterday, I traveled to schools throughout the 17th District to talk about two very important pieces of legislation.

One was the [Higher Education Act](#), which Congress recently reauthorized through 2013.

This bill continues efforts by Democrats in Congress to make college more affordable by encouraging schools to reduce their prices, improving the transparency of overall costs, making the Pell Grant accessible year round, and simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process.

Students and their families throughout my district understand that college costs are too high. By putting a degree within their reach, this legislation will allow more working families to help their kids achieve the American dream.

The bill also included four key provisions I authored to improve the quality of education for students in rural areas. For too long, rural schools in my district have been underserved. As a result, students there have not had the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts.

My provisions would make it easier for rural schools to recruit highly qualified teachers, prepare individuals to be principals, superintendents and other administrators in rural communities, inform dislocated workers, many of whom reside in rural communities, of their eligibility to qualify for more financial aid, and create economic growth and development in rural America.

Yesterday, I also visited West Central School in Biggsville to unveil the [Midwest Schools Disaster Recovery Act](#)—legislation I authored to help schools impacted by recent flooding.

This summer's flooding wreaked havoc on many of our local school systems—with damage expected to reach nearly \$100 million across the Midwest. I believe the federal government has a responsibility to help these schools get back on their feet.

The true cost of the damage goes far beyond repairs and cleanup. Many schools will see an influx of flood-displaced students, while others will face financial challenges due to the loss of students and a decline in property values. My bill accounts for all of these important factors.

Here is some of the media coverage from yesterday's visits:

Macomb Journal: [Hare makes stop at WIU to discuss higher education](#)

Moline Dispatch-Rock Island Argus: [Hare praises new higher education law](#)

Monmouth Daily Review Atlas: [Hare unveils bill to help with education](#)

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Sincerely,



Phil Hare
Member of Congress

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